

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,963

Examiner

William H. Mayo III

Applicant(s)

ASAKURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to November 9, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-13,15 and 16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

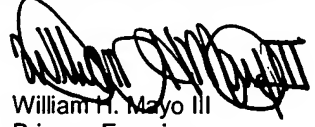
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


William H. Mayo III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2831

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steve Valancius on November 14, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claims 15 & 16, respectively, please insert --A--, in front of water cutoff.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-16 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: This invention deals with a water cutoff structure comprising a first member having a first locking portion and the second member having a second locking portion, wherein the first and second locking portions are fitted together and wherein the first locking portion is formed to be along the first water cutoff portion so as to extend substantially orthogonal to a mating surface of the first member (claims 1 & 12). This invention also deal with a water cutoff structure having a first locking portion and the second member having a second locking portion, wherein the first and second locking portions are fitted to each other, wherein opposite sides of the locking portion are provided with a first positioning projected portion and a first positioning receiving portion respectively, and opposite

Art Unit: 2831

sides of the second locking portion are provided with a second positioning receiving portion fitted to the first positioning projected portion and a second positioning projection portion fitted to the first positioning receiving portion (claims 4 & 15). This also deal with a water cutoff structure having a first locking portion and the second member having a second locking portion, wherein the first and second locking portions are fitted to each other, and wherein a recessed portion includes a groove portion at a bottom portion of the recessed portion and said groove portion is narrower than an upper portion of the recessed portion (claims 5 & 16). This invention also deals with a water cutoff portion comprising first and second members having a lateral width wider than a width when the core lines are laterally arrayed (claim 6). The above stated claim limitations, in combination with other claim limitations, is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record and therefore the claims have been allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

4. The drawings were received on November 9, 2005. These drawings are approved.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 9, 2005 have been fully considered and they are persuasive. Specifically, the applicant's arguments that Kato fails to disclose the claim limitations of claims 1, 4-5, 6, 12, and 15-16 are persuasive and therefore the claims have been allowed.

Communication

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William H. Mayo III whose telephone number is (571)-272-1978. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-6:00 pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/687,963
Art Unit: 2831

Page 5

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Mayo III', written over a circular stamp.

William H. Mayo III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

WHM III
November 15, 2005



Appl. No. 10/687,963
Docket No. Q78072
Amdt. Dated November 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2005
Replacement Sheet

approved
11/14/05

